goods and services can be availed of by all Indian Exporters including those in the Small Sector. In 1985, EXIM Bank introduced a new lending programme *viz.*, 'Small Scale' Industry (SSI) Exports—Export Bills Rediscounting Programme. Under the programme, EXIM Bank rediscounts eligible post-shipment bills of exchange arising out of Small Scale Industry Exports. The bills of exchange should have a total usance not exceeding 180 days and unexpired usance of maximum period of 90 diys. The facility is offered to Indian commercial banks who are authorised dealers in foreign exchange to enable them to finance additional exports by Indian SSI units.

Issuance of shares by companies

2272. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the guidelines for issuance of shares by public limited companies and whether the companies are now allowed to call from the public minimum of 100 shares and full amount per share as application money;

(b) if so, whether these new guidelines have resulted into great hardship for the lower middle class investors who are not able to apply for 100 shares at a time; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to minimise the hardship caused to small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the revised guidelines issued on 7th May, 1985, the applications for securities should be invited from the public for a minimum amount of 100 shares of Rs. 10 each or 10 shares/debentures of Rs. 100 each with a minimum allotment of 100 shares of Rs. 10 or 10 shares/debentures of Rs. 100 each. The companies are also permitted to invite application money at 50 per cent or 100 per cent of the issue price at their discretion.

(b) and (c) The main objectives of the guidelines were to reduce the cost of public issue of securities and the cost of servicing the shareholders of a company. It is not the intention of the guidelines to cause hardship to the lower middle class investors. It is not proposed to lower the minimum amount of application money from the existing level of Rs. 1000/-

Unearthing of a racket in share certificates

2273. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:
SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income-Tax authorities have recently unearthed a big racket in share certificates involving crores of black money; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Income-tax Department conducted searches on 13th February, 1986 at Bombay and Hyderabad in the cases of M|s. Nagarjuna Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. and other connected persons. Searches resulted in the discovery of, *prima-facie*, manipulation in issue of share script of face value of over Rs. 2.54 crores apart from the seizure of other. *prima-facie* unaccounted assets worth Rs. 5 lakhs approximately.